

Adjustment of Driver Side Mirror

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Let me say right from the start, there are ***no advantages gained by tilting the mirrors outward***. There is only increased dangers to drivers who use such a method. And, the situation not detected, such as an aggressive extreme-speeding driver, will not be seen when mirrors are tilted outward.

“Chin-to-shoulder” head checks should be replaced by having the driver move his/her head 8-10 inches forward while looking into the outside mirror. This routine is more efficient, keeps better awareness of traffic ahead, and allows for better car control. ***And, it gives the exact same information as tilting the mirrors outward.***

Mirrors should be adjusted in the traditional manner as illustrated for the following reasons:

1. Teens need to learn where the vehicles come from that are in the blind area of the mirror.
2. The most crash producing lane changes result from the rear zone car passing at the time the lane change takes place.
3. When the mirror is tilting outward it is like only having a snapshot of the situation. Whereas, the traditional method provides a dynamic movie of what's happening, or what is going to happen. Such as, the slight change shown in these two photos of a car getting ready to pass, would not be seen with tilted out mirrors.
4. Not all vehicles have access to a rearview mirror, or there are times when the rearview mirror is blocked; such as, driving a pickup truck with a cap on it.
5. With the mirrors tilted outward it prevents the mirrors from being used while backing, and it is safer to use all three mirrors while backing, contrary to what is taught and tested on a licensing exam.
6. All new cars are required to have backup cameras. Students should be taught to use outside mirrors with the backup camera. Each week in the United States there are 50 children run over by drivers backing — most can be avoided with proper mirror usage.
7. Tilting the mirrors outward will prevent drivers from using the “Six Searching Locations” as defined by the Selective Attention Matrix. Without use of the “Six Searching Locations” drivers are not able to develop spontaneous searching patterns into habit.
8. New cars have blindspot detectors built into the outside mirrors. These mirrors must be adjusted in the traditional manner.
9. Elderly drivers with limited movement of the neck, and with eye glasses, can get reliable information of the blind area condition by moving their head 8-10 inches forward.

